

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 5-14 and 21-29 are currently being amended. Claims 15-20 are cancelled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier.

With the amendments, claims 1-14 and 21-29 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 5-7, 9-14, 16-20 and 22-25 were objected to. These claims are amended herein, as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 15, 21 and 26-29 are rejected for containing an allegedly unclear or undefined phrase: "a second reflection of the upstream signal." Paragraph [0027] of the present application describes the "second reflection of the upstream signal." It reads:

[0027] Signal 220 transmitted from ONU 204 is reflected at each of the disturbing reflectors 300, 302 and 304, thereby generating the disturbing reflections 224, 226 and 228 respectively. Transmitted signal 220 may be recoverable from a reflection 222 directly, since no other signals of sufficient intensity are combined with it. From the point of view of this embodiment, reflection 222 can be denoted as an unwanted reflection. However, at reflector 300, reflection 222 combines with a second reflection of the signal 220, which is caused by reflector 300. Due to propagation delay, the second reflection has a time displacement from the reflection

222. Due to the time displacement, reflection signal 224 that includes reflection 222 and the second reflection is scrambled. The bits of reflection 222 and the second reflection are not aligned in time. Reflection signal 224 is further combined with a reflection of transmitted signal 220 at disturbing reflector 302 thereby generating a reflection signal 226 where signal 224 is further scrambled. Finally, reflection signal 226 is further combined with a reflection of the transmitted signal 220 at the disturbing reflector 304 resulting in a reflection signal 228. When reflection signal 228 is received at ONU 204, original signal 220 is no longer recoverable since reflection signal 228 is a combination of several reflections of original signal 220, each reflection having a different time displacement from the start of signal 220.

(underlining added.)

Claims 1, 8, 21, and 26-29 have been amended to more clearly indicate what element produces the “second reflection of the upstream signal.” Claim 15 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 21, 28 and 29 are rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for a claim limitation. Claim 15 is canceled. These claims are amended herein to correct the antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Allowed Claims

On page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-29 are noted as allowable if the § 112 rejections and objections are overcome.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

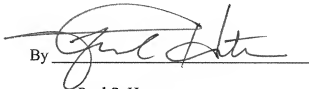
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a credit card payment being in the wrong amount, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extension of time is needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 17, 2007

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Hunter", is written over a horizontal line.

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